

PLYMPTON ST. MARY.
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1896

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

S. NOY SCOTT,

D.P.H., Lond., L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng.

Plymouth :

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TO THE
PLYMPTON ST. MARY
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1896.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report of the Public Health of the Plympton St. Mary Rural District for the year 1896.

The arrangement of the Report is based on the suggestions issued by the Local Government Board, and will therefore be as follows :—

1. A brief description of the general physical characters of the district.
2. The vital statistics of the year.
3. The diseases prevalent during the year.

4. A description of the sanitary conditions of particular parishes and villages, with notes on the work done during the year, and on what is wanted in the future. With these are incorporated the reports received from the Sanitary Inspectors, Messrs. Shier and Horton.
5. As the alterations in the area and population of the district, made by the Plymouth Amalgamation Order, did not take place till so late in the year, I have assumed that the district remained unaltered.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

S. NOY SCOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1896.

 HE area of the Plympton St. Mary Union is 74,320 acres : but as Compton Gifford and Ivybridge have each an independent Sanitary Authority, the area of the district under the Plympton St. Mary Rural District Council for Sanitary Purposes is 73,490 acres.

The district is situated at the extreme west of the South Hams, and is bounded on the North by Dartmoor and the River Tavy ; on the South by the English Channel, and the Towns of Plymouth and Devonport ; on the West by Plymouth Sound, Plymouth, Devonport, and the River Tamar ; on the East by the hilly district of the South Hams.

From the hills lying to the East and North there are a series of undulations, running mostly towards the sea on the South and West, and along the valleys thus formed are the Rivers Erme, Yealm, and Plym, with their tributaries.

In the north part the land is chiefly moorland, and contains valuable china clay works. The remainder of the district is mainly agricultural, and, in most places, in a good state of cultivation. The surface is well wooded.

The GEOLOGY of the district varies much in the different localities ; In the north there are large deposits of granite, which in places is disintegrated and forms the china clay beds ; whilst in the south-west are very extensive and thick beds of limestone. Slate is found in large quantities on the banks of the Plym, in the parishes of Egg Buckland and Plympton St. Mary, whilst scattered throughout the district are shillet and dunstone.

The CLIMATE is mild and humid, and the rainfall abundant, but no official meteorological records are kept.

The WATER SUPPLY. The district contains abundant and satisfactory water in the shape of streams and springs, but these are very unequally distributed, and therefore many of the villages—especially in the southern part of the district—are so far from them as to be almost entirely dependent upon shallow wells and stored rain water.

The water is derived from the following sources :—

- (1) Upland surface water from Dartmoor and similar places, which, collecting in small streams, yields a plentiful supply of good and pure water.
- (2) Springs and Deep Wells :—These are found in various localities, and yield a water whose quality depends entirely upon the particular soil in which the well is. In the limestone district the water is sometimes very hard from dissolved carbonate and sulphate of lime, and except for the hardness the water is good, and generally speaking, very pure, *i.e.*, free from organic pollution.

- (3) **Shallow Wells :—**These are scattered throughout the district, and they largely consist of mere surface water. These wells afford a water which may be good or very bad, according to their depth, position, (proximity to cess-pits, &c.), and liability to surface pollution. A Sanitary Authority should never be content with a water supply which is derived from shallow wells.

SEWAGE AND ITS DISPOSAL :---

Several of the larger villages are drained by a system of sewers from which the sewage is sent into the sea, or water courses, or is carried on to the land, and so disposed of by a method of irrigation.

In many of the villages there are numbers of cases in which the sewage from one or more houses is collected in cesspits. These, not only require periodical cleansing and constant attention, but every now and again they produce serious nuisances, by suddenly overflowing.

By far the majority of cottages and isolated houses are provided with closets over small cess-pits, which are often mere depressions in the ground. In these cess-pits, the filth is allowed to accumulate for a time, varying from one to twelve months, and then has to be removed. It is a disgusting and dangerous method, and the Sanitary Inspectors are constantly endeavouring to replace it by the more suitable and cleanly earth closet system. The cottagers, however, object most strongly to any alteration being made in their time-honoured freedom to do as they like, and this, together with the little, but regular trouble, which is necessary in the use of earth closets, makes their adoption difficult. But I cannot let this opportunity pass without saying that earth closets are the most suitable in every way for small houses with attached gardens, and are gradually being adopted in the district.

The year has, I am glad to say, been active in the promotion of means for improving the drainage and water supplies of the district, and several really good schemes are in hand, notes of which will be found under Sec. 4 of the report.

VITAL STATISTICS.

For Registration purposes, the district is divided into two sub-districts,—the North or Plympton containing 11 parishes, and the South or Yealmpton containing 8 parishes.

The population of the whole district at the 1891 census was 21,759, and is estimated for 1896 to be 23,000, and is distributed in the various parishes as follows.—

NAME OF PARISH.	Area in acres.	Population 1891 census.	Population 1896 estimate.
North sub-district :—			
Bickleigh	2980	302	276
Cornwood	10680	1258	1318
Egg Buckland	3204	1833	2280
Harford	3680	172	166
Laira Green	596	481	703
Pennycross or Western Peverell	900	811	1230
Plympton St. Mary (including ecclesiastical parish of Sparkwell)	11200	3471	3448
Plympton Maurice	170	1139	1135
St. Budeaux	2500	2243	2620
Shaugh Prior	7170	714	724
Tamerton Folliott	3910	1118	1100
	—	—	—
Total	46990	13542	15000

South sub-district :—

Brixton	3060	622	586
Ermington (including Urban District of Ivybridge)	4920	900	888
Holbeton	4800	949	857
Newton Ferrers	3090	710	714
Plymstock (including ecclesiastical parish of Hooe)	2860	3162	3182
Revelstoke	1460	471	420
Wembury	3070	524	508
Yealmpton	3240	879	845
Total South	26500	8217	8000
Total North	46990	13542	15000
Total Whole District	73490	21759	23000

The estimated population for 1896 is a theoretical one, and therefore not free from sources of error, as the Medical Officer of Health has no opportunity of ascertaining how many people migrate into or emigrate from the district. The difference between the numbers of births and deaths registered in the district, together with the number of additional houses erected and occupied, of course afford valuable indications, but for practical purposes and especially for calculating the Birth and Death rates, the M.O.H. relies chiefly on the estimate obtained from the last two censuses. In the estimate for 1896, I have, because of the large number of houses built in St. Budeaux and Weston Peverell, considerably increased the estimate for those two particular districts.

The number of houses in the whole district inhabited at the time of the 1891 census was 4333 ; since then 116 were built in 1892, 88 in 1893, 75 in 1894, 143 in 1895, and 182 in 1896. Leaving out of the question the indeterminable number of

houses taken down or become uninhabitable, I estimate the present number of houses in the district to be 4937 which gives an average of 4·6 persons per house.

Building has been almost confined to the districts of St. Budeaux and Weston Peverell, which are developing rapidly.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES.

The following births were registered in 1896 :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	1895.
North Sub-District	215	205	420	425
South Sub-District	101	94	195	198
Whole District	316	299	615	623

This gives a Birth rate for the North of 28·00 per 1000, as compared with 29·43 in 1895 ; 25·52 in 1894 ; 27·62 in 1893 ; and 25·84 in 1892.

For the South the rate was 24·37 per 1000 as compared with 24·73 in 1895 ; 23·63 in 1894 ; 27·43 in 1893 ; and 26·93 in 1892.

For the whole district the rate was 26·73 per 1000 as compared with 27·75 in 1895 ; 24·84 in 1894 ; 27·55 in 1893 ; and 26·77 in 1892. The average for the last seven years is 26·72.

The Birth rate for the whole of England and Wales during 1896 was 29·7

MARRIAGE RATE.

During the year 178 marriages were registered. This is 55 more than last year.

The marriage rate for this year (or persons married per 1,000 of the population) for the district was 15·47 per 1,000, as compared with 10·96 in 1895, 13 in 1894, 12·01 in 1893, and 12·1 in 1892.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES.

The deaths registered in 1896 were as follows :—

	Males.		Females.		Total.		1895.
North sub-district	125	-	112	-	237	-	246
South „	51	-	48	-	99	-	132
Whole district	176	-	160	-	336	-	378

Recorded death-rate per 1,000 :—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
North sub-district	15·8	17·03	16·34	17·84	17·69
South „	12·37	16·48	15·79	17·34	16·27
Whole district	14·60	16·84	16·14	17·65	17·16

The average rate for the preceding five years was 17·41, so that the present rate is much below the average, and that for the south is an exceedingly low one.

CORRECTED DEATH RATES.

Of the deaths registered in the North sub-district, 23 occurred in the following institutions :—

Plympton St. Mary Union Workhouse	...	16
Plympton House Asylum		3
St. Joseph's Home		4
		—
		23

Of these 23, there were 4 of persons not belonging to the district ; and in Tamerton, Shaugh, Cornwood, and St. Budeaux the death of a non-resident was registered, making a total of 8 non-residents in the North sub-district.

In the South sub-district 6 deaths of non-residents were registered as follows :— 2 in Plymstock, 2 in Wembury, 1 in Newton Ferrers, and 1 in Yealmpton.

To find the corrected death rates of a district, the deaths of persons dying within, but not belonging to the district, must first be deducted. After making these deductions, the corrected death rates are as follows :

	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892
North sub-district...	15·26	16·13	14·93	16·61	17·18
South sub-district...	11·62	15·61	15·79	17·34	16·27
Whole district ...	14·00	15·95	15·24	16·88	16·80

The death rate for the rural population of England and Wales in 1896 was 15·3.

The corrected death rates for the respective parishes (excluding Public Institutions) are as follows :

	1895.		1895.
Bickleigh ...	3·61	Plympton	
Harford	6·02	St. Maurice	12·33
Shaugh Prior ...	6·9	Yealmpton ...	13·13
Brixton	8·53	Egg Buckland	13·15
Holbeton	9·32	Plympton	
Wembury .	9·84	St. Mary	14·21
Cornwood ...	10·6	Revelstoke ...	14·28
Plymstock ...	10·68	St. Budeaux ...	16·41
Tamerton Folliott	10·9	Ermington ...	18·01
Newton Ferrers	11·2	Laira Green ...	18·47
	19·6	Weston Peverell	22·76

I have given these parochial death rates, as they have always been included in previous “annual reports,” but too much stress must not be placed on them, as the populations on which they are calculated are very small.

The deaths were distributed throughout the year as follows :—

	North Sub-District.			South Sub-District.			Whole District.		
	Under 5	Over 5	Total.	Under 5	Over 5	Total	Under 5	Over 5	Totals
1st quarter	14	32	46	5	13	18	19	45	64
2nd quarter	11	36	47	10	19	29	21	55	76
3rd quarter	35	33	68	8	13	21	43	46	89
4th quarter	26	50	76	10	21	31	36	71	107
Whole year	86	151	237	33	66	99	119	217	336

Classification of Causes of Death :—

1896.

	North Sub- District	Sth. Sub- District	Total	1895	1894	1893
Diseases of Nervous System	19	12	31	41	28	49
„ Heart ...	18	11	29	47	34	23
„ Respiratory System	68	25	93	102	85	80
Phthisis	26	10	36	32	24	30
Diseases of Digestive System	10	5	15	25	24	19
„ Urinary System	6	2	8	4	11	11
Zymotic Diseases	33	18	51	29	31	46
Cancer	10	5	15	18	17	17
Old Age	23	3	26	49	69	102
Injuries and Suicide	7	3	10	16	12	11
All other causes...	43	15	58	47	49	31
Total ...	237	99	336	378	360	389

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

	North Sub-district.	South Sub-District.	Total 1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	20	7	27	8	0	5
Scarlet Fever	1	0	1	2	1	13
Diphtheria	1	5	6	3	3	2
Whooping Cough	0	1	1	3	19	5
Enteric Fever	1	0	1	5	1	1
Diarrhœa	9	3	12	7	7	17
Other Zymotic Diseases	1	2	3	1	0	3
Totals	33	18	51	29	31	46

The "seven principal" Zymotic Diseases caused 48 deaths, and this gives the Zymotic Death Rate 2·08 as compared with :

1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.
1·29	1·39	2·08	2·7	2·3

The rate for England and Wales in 1896 was 2·18.

Deaths from all causes at various age periods :—

	1896.			1895	1894	1893
	North sub- district	South sub- district.	Whole District.			
Under 1 year ...	55	16	71	60	64	66
1 Year & under 5 years	31	17	48	34	34	37
5 do. 15 do.	4	6	10	13	15	18
15 do. 25 do.	15	5	20	15	15	7
25 do. 65 do.	69	27	96	109	99	105
65 do. upwards ...	63	28	91	147	133	156
Totals ...	237	99	336	378	360	389

Of the deaths over 65 there were :—

		1895.	1894.
47 between 70 and 80	...	59	68
21 „ 80 and 90	...	45	37
0 over 90	...	10	7

Infant Mortality ; or deaths of infants under one year---
This is estimated as a ratio per 1,000 births registered during the year ; and, as these numbered 615, the infant mortality was 115.4 per 1,000.

1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	Average for 1896. Country generally.
115.4	96.3	115.5	154	105	148

The Infant Mortality was much greater in the North sub-district than in the South.

The rate for the North was 130.9, whilst that for the South was 82.05. This is explained by the fact that the population of the North is approximate in composition and character to that of an urban population, especially in the districts of St. Budeaux, Crown Hill, and Laira.

TABULAR

A.—Deaths during the year 1896.

Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.

Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths under five years of age.

LOCALITIES. adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public institutions being shown as separate localities.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	FEVERS						Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All Other Diseases	TOTAL
												Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal													
North or Plympton	214	53	30	4	15	63	49		1	1									19	8				1	17		2	34	83
							5 upwards						1		1								2	24	22	17	5	59	131
Plympton House.	3					2	1																						
							5 upwards																						
St. Joseph's Home.	4						Under 5																						
							5 upwards																		1			3	4
Union Workhouse.	16	2	1				Under 5												1	1								1	3
							5 upwards																						
						4	9																						
Total, North ...	237	55	31	4	15	69	63		1	1			1						20	9				1	17		2	35	86
							5 upwards								1		1						2	25	25	18	5	74	151
							Under 5			3									6	1	2				8		1	12	33
South or Yealington	99	16	17	6	5	27	28			2						1		1	1	1				10	7	11	2	30	66
							5 upwards																						
							Under 5			1	4								26	1	11			1	25		3	47	119
TOTALS.....	336	71	48	10	20	96	91		2		1				2			1	1	1	1	2	35	32	20	7	104	217	
							5 upwards																						

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.																																			
											Under 5											1													
14												3												1											
											9																								
											1																								

TABLE B.

Shewing the number of deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases in the District from 1883 up and including 1896.

Disease	Average for 1883-1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	Annual Rate per 1000 1896	Annual Rate for England & Wales 1896.
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Measles	5.2	16	5	5	0	8	27	1.17	.56
Scarlet Fever	4.7	6	8	13	1	2	1	.04	.18
Diphtheria	2.6	0	3	0	3	3	6	.26	.29
Whooping Cough	8.1	13	2	5	19	3	1	.04	.41
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	4.5	7	4	1	1	5	1	.04	.17
Diarrhœa	7.4	9	11	17	7	7	12	.53	.55
Other Zymotic Diseases, <i>e.g.</i> : Erysipelas, Croup, and Peurperal Fever	Not recorded	Not recorded	Not recorded	5	0	1	3	.13	
Total	32.5	51	33	46	31	29	51	2.21	

NOTIFICATION—SMALL POX HOSPITAL—DETAILS OF DISEASES IN THE DISTRICT DURING 1896.

The year has been a healthy one, as is evidenced by the low death-rate, and by the absence of serious epidemics. Whilst the general death-rate is much below the average, the Zymotic death-rate has risen to that which prevailed during 1891, 1892, and 1893, and the Infantile death-rate is the same as in 1894.

The low general death-rate is largely due to the great difference in the deaths of persons above five years old, for whereas the numbers for 1895, 1894, and 1893, were respectively 284, 266, and 286, that for 1896 was 217.

The adoption of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act from the 1st January, 1896, has, for the first time in the sanitary history of the district afforded reliable evidence as to the distribution and number of the notifiable diseases. The year's working of the Act proves that it is a tremendous power for good, seeing that the direct results of a notification are :—

1. The supply of printed instructions for the proper isolation of the patient, and the prevention of the spread of the disease.
2. The supply and use of disinfectants.
3. The official inspection of the infected premises, and the removal of any sanitary defects that are discovered.
4. The enquiry as to the origin of the disease, and the adoption of preventive measures.
5. The disinfection of patient and premises when the disease ends.

As a typical example of the working of the Act, I may cite the following :—In December, Diphtheria was notified as being at a large dairy farm in Wembury Parish. Immediately measures were adopted by which the patients were completely isolated, and by which the whole of the operations connected with the milking and distribution of the milk were carried on by persons having nothing whatever to do with the infected house. The result was that the disease was confined entirely to the infected household.

The following tables shew the distribution, number, and fatal cases of the Zymotic diseases ; and following the tables I have added a few comments :

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

Table shewing the Parochial distribution of cases notified under the above Act, and the Deaths from Notifiable Diseases.

The total number printed in large figures, the deaths in small figures.

PARISH.	Small Pox	Cholera	Diphtheria and Membranous Group	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Total Notified.	Total Deaths
Bickleigh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cornwood ...	...	...	2 1	2	1	...	...	...	...	1 1	6	2
Egg Buckland ...	...	...	1	2	...	...	2 1	...	...	...	5	1
Harford ...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Laira Green ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	...
Weston Peverell ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Plympton St. Mary ...	...	...	...	...	2 1	...	2	...	...	1	5	1
Plympton St. Maurice ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
St. Budeaux ...	...	...	3	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	15	...
Shaugh ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Tamerton Folliott ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...
Total—North ...	2	...	14 1	11	9 1	...	7 1	...	...	2 1	45	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

Table shewing the Parochial distribution of cases notified under the above Act, and the deaths from the Notified Diseases.

The total number printed in large figures, the deaths in small figures.

PARISH.	Small Pox	Cholera	Diphtheria and Mem- branous Group	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Relapsing Fever	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever.	Total Notified	Total Deaths
Brixton	...	...	...	1 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ermington	...	...	4 2	3	6	...	...	...	...	1	14	2
Holbeton	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	..
Newton Ferrers	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plymstock	...	...	3 2	3	7	...	1	...	...	...	14	2
Revelstoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Wembury	...	..	4 1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	1
Yeaston	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1 1	4	1
Total South	...	...	11 5	10 1	15	...	3	...	...	2 1	41	7
Total North	2	...	14 1	11	9 1	...	7 1	...	...	2 1	45	4
Total Whole District	2	...	25 6	21 1	24 1	...	10 1	...	...	4 2	86	11

Table shewing Parochial Distribution of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, Phthisis, and Cancer.

NORTH SUB-DISTRICT.	Small Pox.	Cholera	Diph- theria & Mem- branous Croup.	Ery- sipelas	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Re- lapsing Fever.	Puer- peral Fever.	Measles	Diarrhoea	Whoop- ing Cough.	Total Zymotic Diseases	Phthisis	Cancer.
Bickleigh ...															
Cornwood ...			I						I				2	2	I
Egg Buckland ...							I			3	2		6	5	I
Harford ...															I
Laira Green ...										3	I		4		I
Weston Peverell ...										4	I		5	I	2
Plympton St. Mary ...										5	I		7	2	I
Workhouse ...					I					I	I		2	I	I
Plympton St. Maurice ...										I	2		3	4	I
St. Budeaux ...										3	I		4	6	
Shaugh ...														I	
Tamerton Folliott ...														4	I
Total North ...			I		I		I		I	20	9		33	26	10

Table shewing Parochial Distribution of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, Phthisis, and Cancer. (*Continued*).

SOUTH SUB-DISTRICT.	Small Pox.	Cholera.	Diph- theria & Mem- branous Group	Ery- sipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Cyphus Fever.	Enteric Typhoid Fever.	Re- lapsing Fever.	Puer- peral Fever.	Measles, Diarrhea	Whoop- ing Cough.	Total Zymotic Diseases	Phthisis.	Cancer.
Brixton ...				1								1		1
Ermington ...			2									2	2	1
Holbeton ...										1		2		
Newton Ferrers ...										4		4	1	
Plymstock ...			2							1		4	4	2
Revelstoke ...										1		1		1
Wembury ...			1									1	2	
Yealmpton ...									1		1	3	1	
Total South ...			5	1					1	7	3	18	10	5
Total North ...			1		1		1		1	20	9	33	26	10
Whole District ...			6	1	1		1		2	27	12	51	36	15

Table shewing Quarterly Distribution of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases and Phthisis.

1896.	NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.											Phthisis.	
	Small Pox	Cholera.	Diphtheria and Membranous Group.	Ery. sipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.		Diarrhoea.
1st quarter ...			2							1			9
2nd quarter ...			2		1		1			6			9
3rd quarter ...										11			9
4th quarter ...			2	1						9	1	12	9
Total ...			6	1	1			1	2	27	1	12	36

Table shewing Quarterly Distribution of Cases of Infectious Diseases, with the Deaths therefrom.

Totals in Large Figures. Deaths in Small Figures.

	NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.							NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.				TOTAL CASES.	TOTAL DEATHS.	
	Small Pox	Cholera.	Diphtheria and Membranous Group.	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhus Fever.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.			Diarrhoea
1st Quarter			7 2	5	1		1		1	1 1			16	3
2nd Quarter	2		7 2	2	7 1		4 1		1	6 6			28	11
3rd Quarter			5	5	4		4		1 1	11 11			30	12
4th Quarter			6 2	9 1	12		1		2	9 9	1 1	12 12	52	25
Whole Year	2		25 6	21 1	24 1		10 1		4 2	27 27	1 1	12 12	126	51

Measles.—The schools in St. Budeaux, Plympton St. Mary, and Revelstoke had to be closed for short periods, owing to epidemics of measles. The large number of deaths from this disease is the cause of the zymotic death-rate being higher than it has been for the past two years. The large mortality from measles is undoubtedly partly due to the failure of parents to realize that measles is a serious disease and the consequent careless treatment of “only measles.” The fact that measles is one of the most fatal diseases to which children are liable, and that it is perhaps the most important cause of deafness and impaired health, ought to be more generally known. Indeed, measles is such a serious disease that the question of including it under the “Notifiable Diseases” is receiving general consideration, and in many urban districts it is actually so included. Whilst I am not yet prepared to recommend this being done in our district, I should like the first case appearing in each household to be notifiable ; and, perhaps, more important still, I wish the elementary schoolmasters and mistresses would at once send to its home any child coming to school obviously suffering from a “cold,” for a “cold” is not only nearly always the way in which measles first shews itself, but it also often means an infectious sore throat. The unwise enforcement of regular attendance at school in all weathers is undoubtedly a powerful cause of child illness, and children are often sent to school when in the early stages of measles, diphtheria, and scarlet fever.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.—Six deaths were registered out of a total of 25 cases. In contrast with this, the 24 cases of Scarlet Fever notified only caused one death.

The death rate for Diphtheria is higher than it has been since 1890. An opinion is gaining ground that Diphtheria is increasing generally throughout the Country *pari passu* with the increasingly enforced regular aggregation of children in schools.

Small Pox.—The cases notified in Tamerton and Weston Peverell were at once removed to the Devonport Hospital, and the other inmates of the infected houses re-vaccinated, and the houses disinfected.

Small Pox Hospital.—I am sorry to say that the proposed arrangement for a joint hospital with a neighbouring authority has had to be abandoned. The Council has, however, obtained permission to lease a piece of land within the district, on which a Small Pox Hospital can at any time be erected, and, by express resolution, the Medical Officer of Health is empowered to buy and erect a temporary Isolation Hospital, should occasion arise for it.

This is something to be thankful for, yet it is not sufficient, and I recommend the Council to obtain the lease of the land and erect a small Hospital thereon.

Refuse from Plymouth.—The nuisance caused by the conglomeration of filth known as “Plymouth Dung” is a periodical cause of just and serious complaints. The refuse is collected from the houses in Plymouth, and stored by the contractor until it becomes offensive. It is then sent out of Plymouth, and given or sold to farmers, who use it to manure the land. What its value as a manure may be I know not, but I am certain it is a potent cause of polluting the atmosphere, and, therefore, of producing sickness in people who are unfortunate enough to have to breathe such polluted air. Although I do not wish to unduly interfere with anything that is good for agriculture, yet the injury done by this refuse is so great that I consider an attempt should be made to abate the nuisance by strictly enforcing the present bye-laws, and if these prove insufficient, I think an endeavour should be made to obtain the consent of the Local Government Board to more stringent bye-laws. I hope, however, the year will not pass without an effectual remedy being provided by the Plymouth

Corporation itself, seeing it has been strongly recommended by its own Medical Officer of Health to erect a destructor by which all the refuse could easily be rendered innocuous.

NOTES ON THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF, AND WORKS IN THE DIFFERENT PARISHES.

St. Budeaux and Crownhill.—I am very glad to report that progress has been made in the proposed scheme for drainage of this very important and rapidly-developing district. A very comprehensive scheme has been prepared by Mr. Masterton, C.E., which will provide for all the present houses and likewise meet all possible future demands. I cannot too strongly urge on the Council the importance of pushing forward this scheme, for the district is urgently in need of a system of sewers to replace the present dangerous and disgusting cesspits, which, although constantly attended to, are yet constantly in a state of nuisance. At Morris Park and Yeoman's Terrace work has been done by which the nuisances from the cesspits have been lessened. In justice to the Council I cannot omit to mention that much of the delay which has taken place with regard to the drainage of St. Budeaux has been absolutely unavoidable, for it has chiefly been due to the time taken up by such official correspondence as has from time to time become necessary.

Honicknowle.—The one great nuisance near this village is the slaughterhouse and Knacker's Yard, known as "Turner's Yard." If steps are not immediately taken to abate the nuisance I advise the Council to take proceedings to close the yard.

Honicknowle and King's Tamerton.—The wells have been inspected, and it was resolved to leave them unaltered. A committee was appointed to confer with the Plymouth Corpora-

tion as to terms, &c., on which the Plymouth water could be used in these villages. The committee furnished the Corporation with certain required particulars, and are awaiting the reply.

Weston Peverell.—Montpelier Building Estate.—This large block of buildings is urgently in need of sewers. At present all the houses are supplied with earth closets, and although there is a daily collection of pail refuse yet the system is not suited for houses built so closely together as these are. Again, there is no proper provision for disposal of slop water, for although all the houses are drained yet the drains discharge into an open gutter and much offence is thereby caused. Mr. Shier was empowered to carry out a temporary scheme by which the nuisance would be greatly lessened, but unfortunately the permission which was provisionally given for the construction of a cesspit on some of the adjoining land was at the last moment withdrawn by the land-owner.

At the present time negotiations are in hand by which I hope this large number of houses will be effectually drained into the sewers of a neighbouring authority, and there ought to be no difficulties with that authority, seeing that this is the first occasion since the "Amalgamation Enquiry" on which it has been asked to "Grant facilities for the drainage of any of the outlying districts."

Tamerton Foliott.—The public wells have been protected, some cess-pit closets have been replaced by water closets, and Franklin's Cottages have been provided with eight new earth closets (being one for each cottage), in the place of three cess-pit privies ; a new slop water drain has also been made.

Laira.—During the year a sewer has been constructed and some cess-pits, which were for so long a constant source of trouble, abolished. The sewer has been connected with the Compton main and the sewage afterwards undergoes treatment in the Compton tanks.

Egg Buckland—The scheme of sewerage prepared by Mr. Bellamy, C.E., has unfortunately had to be partially abandoned, as the land proposed for irrigation purposes could not be obtained under the prohibitive price of £350 per acre, and no less than 4 acres at that price. An attempt was made to obtain land at a greater distance from the village, but this also failed. It is very unfortunate, for the present condition is one that cannot be allowed to go on for long, and fresh efforts must therefore be made to remedy the existing nuisance. During the year the public well has been protected from surface contamination.

Ermington.—As the result of my inspection I consider that this village should have a system of sewers by which the present unsatisfactory drains—some of which are open—would be abolished. At the top of the village is a good supply of water which I recommend the Council to acquire. From this source not only could a distribution of water for domestic use be made throughout the village, but plenty for flushing purposes could be obtained.

Newton Ferrers.—During the year Mr. Worth, C.E., has reported on the water supply of this village, and much time has been given to this question. Mr. Worth prepared a scheme which the district Council referred to the Parish Council, who at first rejected it, and suggested the sinking of trial pits on some high ground above the village, where there was supposed to be water. The District Council granted money for sinking the pits, but the result proved the previously expressed opinion of Mr. Worth, that such pits would be of no use. The Parish Council will now probably accept Mr. Worth's scheme, and I hope no time will be lost in pushing it forward, as Newton Ferrers is imperatively in need of a better water supply.

Revelstoke.—Mr. Worth, C.E., has prepared a scheme for supplying this village with water from a good and permanent source, situated at a high level, and I hope the scheme will soon be carried out.

Holbeton.—The source of the public water supply has been protected, and is now in a satisfactory condition.

Wembury.—At the back of the cottages known as Water Gate, there is an accumulation of mud and filth which should be removed. A drain from the village empties itself into this place, and the result is a nuisance which is certainly dangerous to the people living in the cottages. I recommend that the drain be lengthened, so that it will discharge in a field on the further side of the cottages. The school closets have been improved.

Cornwood.—A new sewer has been laid from the school to the Cornwood Inn, and provided with an automatic flusher, fixed at the highest point, by which the whole of the main sewer is flushed several times a day. The sewer has also been ventilated by an iron pipe reaching a height of 30 feet above ground.

The schools have been thoroughly new-drained and provided with trough closets with automatic flushers. A urinal, supplied with plenty of water, has been erected for the boys. The drains are trapped and ventilated, and the whole of the work is very satisfactory.

A comprehensive water scheme for supplying the village (with the hamlets of Churchtown, Corntown and Puttapool) has been prepared and received the sanction of the District and Parish Councils. But it has been thought wise, chiefly on the ground of expense and to avoid the necessity of borrowing, to carry out the work by stages. It is first proposed to construct the Intake and Reservoir works, and supply the main village; afterwards but in the near future, to complete the scheme. At the present time negotiations are in hand with the owners of the springs proposed to be taken, and I hope very soon to see the works commenced.

Harford.—At Bullaven some sanitary improvements have been carried out, by which a possible pollution of the Erme has been prevented.

Roborough.—During the year a marked improvement has been made in the sanitary condition of the village inn. There is much, however, left to be done in this village, as many of the cottages have filthy cess-pit closets, and there is no proper provision for slop water and surface drainage. I had hoped that the year would not have gone without a scheme of drainage being carried out, but the difficulty of getting land for sewage disposal has prevented any effective steps being taken. The landowner who ought (seeing that he owns most of the village) to afford facilities for the drainage of the village is strongly opposed to granting any land for sewage irrigation.

Yealmpton.—The condition of the water supply of this village remains as before, viz: a good supply of water but with insufficient distribution. The water is claimed entirely by the landlord in whose land the spring is situate; on the other hand the inhabitants claim an equal right to the use of the water, and it cannot be denied that for many years the people have enjoyed undisputed use of the water from two public taps. It is a great pity the matter should remain unsettled. The opinion of Mr. Worth, C.E. who was consulted on the subject is that it would be wiser for Yealmpton to get its water from an altogether new source, and he has recommended a spring at Weston Torre, on the south bank of the Yealm, which he estimated would yield a dry-weather flow of 100,000 gallons a day. If this spring could be obtained there would be water for not only Yealmpton but also for Brixton, and the cost of the joint scheme would be very much less than separate ones for each parish. At the present time a correspondence is being conducted with the owner of the land at Weston Torre, and if satisfactory terms can be obtained I strongly recommend the Council to acquire the spring and so solve the problem of how to supply Brixton and Yealmpton with

a good supply of water. This is all the more necessary seeing that the approaching completion of the Plymstock and Yealmpton Railway will in all probability open up the district for building.

Dunstone.—This village in the parish of Yealmpton, is insufficiently supplied with water during the summer and I have been watching—with Mr. Horton—another spring with a view to increasing the present supply. After twelve months observation including the marked drought of last summer, I am able to report that the spring is a permanent one. I think the landowner has consented to allow the water to be piped from this spring to the present reservoir, and I therefore recommend the Council to take the spring and proceed with the work.

Brixton.—During the year further efforts have been made to obtain a better water supply. Mr. H. Worth, C.E., has reported on the advisability and cost of taking water from two or three sources. The most promising source was a spring at Sherford, but unfortunately the landowner has refused to sell the water. At the present time a scheme is being prepared by which Brixton can obtain water from the same source as is proposed for Yealmpton.

Spriddlestone.—The village pump has been repaired, and improvements have been made by which the surface drainage of the village is more effectually carried away.

Plympton St. Mary and St. Maurice.—I am glad to report that the public water has been during the year supplied to 39 more houses. The total numbers of houses now being supplied are 310 in Plympton St. Mary and 175 in Plympton St. Maurice.

In Plympton St. Maurice there have been two new closets erected and one improved.

Hemerdon.—Four new earth closets have been erected in the place of privies, and other closets put into a satisfactory condition.

A new slop-water drain has been laid at the western end of the village.

Venton.—Much progress has been made towards getting a water supply for this village. A well has been sunk in Lord Seaton's land and plenty of water found, and I have no doubt that early in 1897 a lease of the well will be obtained and the water become available for the villagers.

Sparkwell.—A good deal of attention has been given to the "water question" for this village. A well has been sunk on high ground above the village and plenty of water found, but unfortunately the landowner in whose land the well was sunk is legally unable to grant a lease for a longer term than 21 years; and the expenditure which would be necessary to raise, store, and distribute the water is so exceedingly heavy that the Rural District Council have reluctantly had to considerably modify the scheme as originally prepared by Mr. Francis, C.E. A plan is now being discussed by which I hope Sparkwell will be supplied with water at a cost more in proportion to its rateable value and the period for which the water can be obtained.

Plymstock.—**Oreston.**—Some defects at the outfall of the main sewer have been remedied, and the sewer better ventilated. Several new closets have been erected.

Pomphlett.—The outfall of the main sewer has been extended about 70 feet into deeper water. A reception tank has been placed under the public pump, and a new pump erected.

Elburton.—The public well and reservoir have been cleaned out and repaired.

Turnchapel.—Two houses have been provided with water-closets and connected with the main sewer.

Water Supply of Plymstock.—The great disappointment of the year has been the refusal of the Local Government Board to sanction the loan for carrying out Mr. Francis' scheme for supplying Plymstock with water from the Plympton source. The Rural District Council have for a long time felt the necessity of improving the water supply of this parish, and they engaged Mr. Francis, C.E., an engineer of great experience, to advise on the "best means of obtaining such water." Mr. Francis met a joint Committee of the District and Parish Councils, and fully discussed the question of utilizing any water there was within the parish, and the members of this Committee being at first very desirous of obtaining water, if possible, "within the parish," they gave Mr. Francis all the information they could as to the existence of any such water, and he afterwards repeatedly visited the suggested springs. He also considered the question of obtaining water from Plymouth, and after prolonged and careful investigation, he definitely advised that the "best means of supplying Plymstock with water, was to take it from the Plympton source." He was thereupon instructed to prepare a scheme, and this, after being adopted by the District Council, was supported by the Parish Council. It is difficult to say what more could have been done to command success, and I am afraid the refusal of the Local Government Board to sanction the scheme will have a very discouraging effect on the District Council, for, if ever any scheme was prepared with care, and after due consideration of all the aspects of the question, Mr. Francis' scheme was. Not only this, but the L.G.B. Inspector at the enquiry, definitely stated that he was there "not only to enquire into Mr. Francis' scheme," but also "to determine the best scheme for the District." And yet in the report refusing its sanction to the loan, the one most definite statement is that

the L.G.B. "is not satisfied that the scheme just put forward by the Rural District Council is most suited to the needs of the locality." The R.D.C. is then directed to make an exhaustive test of a well on the high ground near Elburton, and this will be begun during the ensuing summer: as the test, to be exhaustive, must be spread over at least two summers, I see no hope of Plymstock obtaining any better supply of water for a considerable time to come, and if the ensuing summer prove to be such a dry one as that of last year, there can only be a repetition of the terrible inconvenience which the people of Plymstock generally, and Plymstock village especially, had to put up with.

In putting forward the Plympton scheme the Rural District Council felt very strongly that Plymstock, from its proximity to Plymouth, should be supplied with such an amount of water as would not only satisfy the present needs, but would also be able to bear the future demands which will have to be met if Plymstock (as in all probability is the case) increases, and the District Council was and is assured that the amount of water obtainable from the Plympton source and its immediate neighbourhood would be more than sufficient for all demands.

It is, therefore, particularly unfortunate that the Local Government Board have not been more explicit in their report as to why the Plympton scheme is unsatisfactory, and also as to what their Inspector considers the best scheme for the neighbourhood; but, judging from the line taken by the opponents of the scheme at the inquiry, I presume the scheme likely to be approved by the Local Government Board is one which would supply

Pomphlett from Plymouth.

Such parts of Oreston, Hooe }
 and Turnchapel as are } from Mr. Bailey's reservoir.
 below its level }

Plymstock and the remainder of the parish including the parts of Oreston, Hooe and Turnchapel as are above the level of Mr. Bailey's reservoir.	}	from Elburton, Staddiscombe and Plymouth.
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and this probably means that the future development of Plymstock must depend on the supply of Plymouth water.

Overcrowding.—I have carefully investigated the cases which have been brought to my notice during the year, but they have not been such as necessitated, or would afford sufficient ground for any legal action. It cannot be denied that in several of the villages there are many houses or tenements in which more people live than one thinks proper or advisable, but in the face of the impossibility of finding other houses, it would be a cruel hardship to evict a family except under the sternest necessity, and I have, therefore, had to be content to insist upon cleanliness and free ventilation,

New Houses inspected & Water Certificates granted.—

				Added to Plymouth by the Amalgamation Order.	
Turnchapel	...	...	2	...	...
Egg Buckland	...	...	3	...	3
St. Budeaux	...	...	66	...	...
Tamerton Folliott	...	...	5	...	...
Weston Peverell	...	...	98	...	21
Laira Green	...	...	5	...	5
Plympton St. Mary	...	...	3	...	...
				—	—
			182	29	
Deduct those added to Plymouth ..				—	
			29		
				—	
Total increase at end of year ...				...	153
				—	
Rooms disinfected				...	40

PLYMOUTH :

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